1: Dube E-5 (1951-52) 1955 AW17 Telugu AW17

425 their separation by death or selling causes so much sorrow among the peasants.

423 435 Land is indeed the most precious and coveted possession of the village people. With the exception of women's ornaments, land and cattle are almost the only property they have. With the overall increase in general price levels in recent years, the price of land has also risen. The following table will give an idea of the average prices of different grades of land in 1939 and in 1950.

TABLE III

Prices of Land in 1939 and 1950

Type of land	*Price per acre in rupees*					
	1939 *Grades of land*			1950 *Grades of land*		
	A	B	C	A	B	C
1. Dry land	60	40	18	220	170	75
2. Wet land	250	150	90	1,200	800	480
3. Garden land	300	240	110	1,500	1,200	550

243 434 I propose to examine the standards of living, and relative earnings and expenditure of the different levels of the population in a subsequent chapter. But a consideration of the economics of agriculture will not be out of place here.

The two major crops grown by the people of Shamirpet are rice and millet. Table IV gives the averages per acre of gross income, total cost and net income, in the cultivation of millet, particularly *jawar*. Tables V and VI give similar figures for paddy, for single crop and double crop lands respectively. The figures have been worked out from a survey of a 50% sample of village families cultivating the three different categories of land. Figures are given to the nearest whole number.

TABLE IV

Average Cost and Yield per Acre in the Cultivation of Millet

Grade of land	*Gross income*	*Total expenditure*	*Net income*
A	Rs. 140	Rs. 64	Rs. 76
B	„ 82	„ 40	„ 42
C	„ 62	„ 30	„ 32

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TABLE V

Average Cost and Yield per Acre in the Cultivation of Paddy (One-crop Fields)

Grade of land	*Gross income*	*Total expenditure*	*Net income*
A	Rs. 420	Rs. 180	Rs. 240
B	„ 310	„ 160	„ 150
C	„ 200	„ 120	„ 80

TABLE VI

Average Cost and Yield per Acre in the Cultivation of Paddy (Two-crop Fields)

Grade of land	*Gross income*	*Total expenditure*	*Net income*
A	Rs. 530	Rs. 220	Rs. 310
B	„ 420	„ 200	„ 220
C	„ 380	„ 190	„ 190

If we work out the averages for the different items of expenditure incurred in agricultural activities, we find that the expenditure on seeds is the most important single factor, accounting for nearly 60% of the total amount spent. Land revenue, wages for hired labour, maintenance or hire of plough and cattle, and interest on loans and capital investments are the other important items of expenditure. Manure and land improvement between them account for only about 7% of the sum spent. Table VII gives the averages of expenditure on the items mentioned above, according to our field survey.

TABLE VII

Item of expenditure	*Percentage of total expenditure*
1. Seed	58
2. Land revenue	9
3. Hired labour	6·5
4. Maintenance and/or hire of plough cattle	5·5
5. Interest on loan and capital investments	4
6. Manure	3·5
7. Agricultural tools, repairs and field improvement	3·5
8. Miscellaneous	1

In the pages that have preceded, the position of land as a factor in village agriculture has been briefly examined. Some general observations have already been made about labour, and I shall return to it presently. Here a passing reference should be made to the factors of capital and organization.

31: Slater S-5 (1916-1917) 1918 AWI India
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427 zamindari tenant supplies two pairs of bulls, one-eighth goes to the cultivator.
241 In the case of sugarcane, the cultivator gets 1½ shares and the zamindari tenant only one. If the sub-tenant cultivates on contract, the cultivator must give two maunds of jaggery for every 2½ cents of land planted with sugarcane.*

Of the agricultural families, all the males cultivate some land and also work for hire. There are two females, however, who do not cultivate, of whom one lives on charity and the other by working as a coolie.

[423] Of the lands which are called "Sirkar" there is only one kind of ownership and holders of such land are called pattadars.

As regards lands designated "inam" lands there are slight differences. The inamdars pay, instead of the full rent, what are called quit-rents and road-cess.

463 There are five villagers who combine agriculture with other occupations. One is a blacksmith, the other a potter, the third prepares combs, and two others are dhobis. The sub-tenants mentioned above also do the work of coolies between harvest and sowing time.

● 243 *Agriculture.*—All dry lands yield only one crop per annum. Wet lands yield two crops. No land yields three crops.

For millets and pulses, the land is ploughed after a shower of rain when it is soft. Generally June or July is seed time. After a time when the plants sprout up the fields are weeded. After that four or five good showers of rain are needed. Then when the corn is ripe, it is cut and piled in bundles. The bundles are trod upon by bulls and the corn drops out.

For paddy the harvest time is November for the first crop, for which seed is sown in June or July; April and May for the second crop, for which seed is sown in December or January. When there is sufficient water the paddy fields are flooded with water and then ploughed till they become miry. Afterwards, green leaf manure (generally kanaga leaves) and animal manure are spread and well trodden in. Before planting paddy is steeped in cow-dung water in pots, which water is renewed every day. After four or five days the plants sprout up and then they are removed from the pots and placed in the prepared fields. After they are thus planted the fields are again flooded with water. But the water is allowed to remain for a day only. The next day it is let out and the fields are allowed to dry for three days when the plants are of some size. From that time onwards till the corn is ripe water is allowed to flow freely on the fields. When it is ripe it is harvested. Then it is cut, heaped in bundles, struck against a bed of rock when the grain falls out which is all collected and taken home.

249 *Sugarcane.*—The land is well ploughed, but unlike paddy is not made miry at first. Long trenches of comparatively little depth are made by means of the ploughshare. Then the field is well manured, and water is let in till it becomes miry. The sugarcane already cut in small pieces is planted in these trenches. No water is let in on that day. After an interval of three days water

[804] *[This must be taken to mean, not the Railway or Bengal maund of 82½ lb., but a local maund of 26 lb. very nearly. The rent in jaggery is therefore nearly one ton per acre, worth about Rs. 150.—Ed.]